

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-13 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1 and 12 have been amended, claims 4, 7-11 and 13 have been cancelled, and claims 14-15 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15 are at now pending in the above-identified application.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-6, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Goto et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,471,267). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to require that the combined image signal is only output if the legitimacy-check information corresponding to the inputted registration image coincides with the stored legitimacy-check information. As explained in the specification, “[w]hen setting information is registered, a checksum of the registration image data that is developed in the DRAM 142a is calculated and recorded in the EEPROM 120a if necessary. . . . If the power is turned on again after registration was once made, the setting information of the EEPROM 120a is checked. . . . IF there exists a file of the registration image data, the registration image data of the memory stick 200a is captured via the memory stick interface (MS I/F) 141a and developed in the DRAM 142a and its checksum is calculated. If the calculated checksum coincides with a checksum that is registered in the EEPROM 120a, a combined image 330 is generated by automatically superimposing the registration image 320 on a camera image 310 and recording is permitted according to the above-described procedure. If there is no corresponding image data file in the memory stick 200a or checksum coincidence

does not occur, superimposition on the camera image 310 is not performed and recording is not permitted.” (Specification at pp. 19-21).

Neither *Goto* nor *Sasson* teach such a legitimacy-check coincidence feature as required by independent claims 1 and 12. Thus, these claims, as well as their respective dependent claims, are patentable over these references.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Goto* in view of *Sasson et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,106,107). Claims 7-11 have been cancelled by this amendment. Thus, this rejection is now moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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